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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/608,802	06/30/2000	Martin Cieslak	CISCP146	2424

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EXAMINER

BHATIA, AJAY M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2145

DATE MAILED: 09/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/608,802

Applicant(s)

CIESLAK ET AL.

Examiner

Ajay M. Bhatia

Art Unit

2145

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19, 40-57, 78 and 80 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19, 40-57, 78 and 80 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

Response to Arguments

Presently the claim limitation recites "computer readable storage medium" applicant in specification has defined medium non-statutory, but not computer readable storage medium therefore in light of the specification present invention fails to overcome 101 rejection.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-82 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 78 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Presently the claim limitation recites "computer readable storage medium" applicant in specification has defined medium non-statutory, but not computer readable storage medium therefore in light of the specification present invention fails to overcome 101 rejection. In view of Applicant's disclosure, specification page 24, the medium is not limited to tangible embodiments, instead being defined as including both tangible embodiments (e.g., floppy disk) and intangible embodiments

Art Unit: 2145

(e.g., carrier waves). As such, the claim is not limited to statutory subject matter and is therefore non-statutory.

Claims 1 and 80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Because claims 1 and 80 fail to produce a useful, concrete and tangible result.

In *State Street*, the Federal Circuit examined some of its prior section 101 cases, observing that the claimed inventions in those cases were each for a “practical application of an abstract idea” because the elements of the invention operated to produce a “useful, concrete and tangible result.” *State Street*, 149 F.3d at 1373-74, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. For example, the court in *State Street* noted that the claimed invention in *Alappat* “constituted a practical application of an abstract idea (a mathematical algorithm, formula, or calculation), because it produced ‘a useful, concrete and tangible result’—the smooth waveform.” *Id.* Similarly, the claimed invention in *Arrhythmia* “constituted a practical application of an abstract idea (a mathematical algorithm, formula, or calculation), because it corresponded to a useful, concrete and tangible thing—the condition of a patient’s heart.” *Id.*

In determining whether the claim is for a “practical application,” the focus is not on whether the steps taken to achieve a particular result are useful, tangible and concrete, but rather that the final result is “useful, tangible and concrete.” The Federal Circuit further ruled that it is of little relevance whether a claim is directed to a machine

Art Unit: 2145

or process for the purpose of a § 101 analysis. AT&T, 172 F.3d at 1358, 50 USPQ2d at 1451.

A claim limited to a machine or manufacture, which has a practical application, is statutory. In most cases, a claim to a specific machine or manufacture will have a practical application. See Alappat, 33 F.3d at 1544, 31 USPQ2d at 1557 (“the claimed invention as a whole is directed to a combination of interrelated elements which combine to form a machine for converting discrete waveform data samples into anti-aliased pixel illumination intensity data to be displayed on a display means. This is not a disembodied mathematical concept which may be characterized as an ‘abstract idea,’ but rather a specific machine to produce a useful, concrete, and tangible

result.”); and State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373-74, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02 (“the transformation of data, representing discrete dollar amounts, by a machine through a series of mathematical calculations into a final share price, constitutes a practical application of a mathematical algorithm, formula, or calculation, because it produces ‘a useful, concrete and tangible result’ – a final share price momentarily fixed for recording and reporting purposes and even accepted and relied upon by regulatory authorities and in subsequent trades.”). Also see AT&T, 172 F.3d at 1358, 50 USPQ2d at 1452 (Claims drawn to a long-distance telephone billing process containing mathematical algorithms were held patentable subject matter because the process used the algorithm to produce a useful, concrete, tangible result without preempting other uses of the mathematical principle.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-19, 40-57, 78 and 80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yates et al. ("Yates"), USPN 6,167,438 in view of Dynamic Load Balancing on Web-Server System (Dynamic).

Regarding claim 1, Yates discloses a method of facilitating redirection of traffic sent from a first processing device to a second processing device, the method comprising: at a third processing device associated with a plurality of traffic handling systems, receiving traffic information from each of the associated traffic handling systems, wherein the traffic information received from each associated traffic handling system specifies which data should be redirected to the each of associated traffic handling system [ie. router, Yates, col. 4, lines 40-59, col. 7, lines 28-56, col. 8, line 55 – col. 9, line 14, col. 12, lines 35-67 and col. 16, lines 35-37]; and determining how to redirect traffic received by the third processing device to a selected traffic handling system based on the received traffic information from each of the associated traffic handling systems[Yates, col. 7, lines 28-56, col. 8, line 55 – col. 9, line 14]

Art Unit: 2145

at the third processing device, receiving data from one or more first processing devices that are destined for one or more second processing device; and at the third processing device, redirecting the received data to selected one or more of the traffic handling systems so that the redirected data are apportioned between the traffic handling system [Yates, col. 12, lines 35-46]

Yates fails to clearly disclose, based on the traffic information from each of the associated traffic handling system and at least a portion of the received data.

Both Yates and Dynamic are in the field of web servers

Yates is compatible with Dynamic because Yates discloses multiple cache servers

Dynamic teaches, based on the traffic information from each of the associated traffic handling system and at least a portion of the received data. (Dynamic pages 35-36)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to Combine Yates with Dynamic because on page 28-29, Dynamic discusses that improvement need to be made to web systems to handle increase client requests.

Regarding claim 2, Yates further discloses wherein the determination of redirecting data is accomplished by: communicating the traffic information to at least a designated one of the associated traffic handling systems; and at the third processing device, receiving traffic redirection information from the designated traffic handling system, the traffic redirection information being based on the communicated traffic information [Yates, col. 8, line 55 – col. 9, line 14 and col. 12, lines 35-67].

Regarding claim 3, Yates further discloses at the third processing device, building or updating a data structure based on the received traffic information, wherein the traffic information is communicated to the designated traffic handling system within the data structure [Yates, col. 15, line 1 – col. 16, line 28].

Regarding claims 4-6 and 15, Yates further discloses in the third processing device, receiving a packet from the first processing device destined for the second processing device; and redirecting the packet to a selected one of the traffic handling systems based on the traffic redirection information, receiving the packet back in the third processing device after redirecting it to the selected traffic handling system [Yates, col. 4, lines 40-59, col. 7, lines 28-56, col. 8, line 55 – col. 9, line 14 and col. 12, lines 35-67]; determining that the packet is to be sent to the packet's original destination address instead of being redirected to the selected traffic handling system; and sending the packet from the third processing device to its original destination, wherein it is determined that the packet is to be sent to the packet's original destination by

Art Unit: 2145

determining that the packet is encapsulated and de-encapsulating the packet prior to sending the packet to its original destination and receiving a packet from the first processing device destined for the second processing device [Yates, col. 18, lines 21-43]; and when one or more port identifiers of the received packet matches a corresponding set field of the service options of the selected traffic handling system, redirecting the packet to the selected traffic handling system [Yates, col. 4, lines 40-59 and col. 12, lines 54-67].

Regarding claim 7, Yates further discloses the traffic information sent from a selected traffic handling system to the third processing device includes service options specifying which data is to be redirected to the selected traffic handling system [Yates, col. 8, line 55 – col. 9, line 14].

Regarding claim 8, Yates further discloses the service options include a plurality of fields that are configurable to indicate that one or more fields of a packet received in the third processing device are to be used to determined redirection of packets to the selected traffic handling system [Yates, col. 8, line 55 – col. 9, line 14].

Regarding claim 9, Yates further discloses the fields are selected from a group consisting of a source IP field, a destination IP field a source port field, a destination port field, a source IP alternative field, a destination IP alternative field, a source port alternative field, and a destination port alternative field [Yates, col. 12, lines 35-67].

Regarding claims 10 and 11, Yates further discloses each field indicates that a corresponding field of a packet received in the third processing device is to be used to generate an index to a table identifying the plurality of associated traffic handling systems, the generated index being associated with the selected traffic handling system, wherein each field indicates that a hashed value of the corresponding field of the received packet is to be used to generate the index to the table identifying the plurality of associated traffic handling systems [Yates, col. 15, line 1 – col. 16, line 28].

Regarding claim 12, Yates further discloses at least one of the fields may be set to indicate one or more port identifiers of traffic received in the third processing device [Yates, col. 15, line 1 – col. 16, line 28].

Regarding claims 13 and 14, Yates further discloses the fields are selected from a group consisting of a port fields, wherein the fields includes a source/destination field to indicate whether the port identifiers of the received traffic are source ports or destination ports [Yates, col. 12, lines 35-67].

Regarding claims 16-18, Yates further discloses the traffic information sent from a selected traffic handling system to the third processing device includes security options for specifying an authentication level for messages communicated between the third processing device and the selected traffic handling system, wherein the security options

Art Unit: 2145

are configurable to select no authentication for messages communicated between the third processing device and the selected traffic handling system and to require a predetermined password encoded within messages communicated between the third processing device and the selected traffic handling system [Yates, col. 4, line 60 – col. 5, lines 11].

Regarding claim 19, Yates further discloses the traffic information sent from a selected traffic handling system includes identifying information for the selected traffic handling system [Yates, col. 4, lines 1-26].

Regarding claims 40-57, 78 and 80, claims 40-57, 78 and 80 have similar limitations as claims 1-19. Therefore, the similar limitations are disclosed under Yates for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1-19 [Supra 1-19].

Conclusion

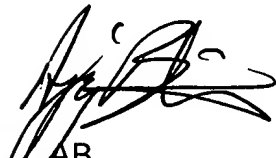
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See attached Notice of references cited (if appropriate). Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ajay M. Bhatia whose telephone number is (571)-272-3906. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.


Art Unit: 2145

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571)272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



AB



Jason Cardone
Supervisor Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2145